

U.S. Appln. No. 10/019,135
Response to Office Action dated June 24, 2005

PATENT
450119-03138

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A service system for automatically distributing electronic information contents based on a utilization contract ~~made in advance previously established~~ between an information provider and a user, the service system comprising:
 - information distributing means for distributing electronic information contents to a user; ~~and~~
 - an information processing apparatus for receiving and processing the electronic information contents distributed from ~~this~~ the information distributing means,
 - ~~characterized in that this~~ wherein the information processing apparatus calls and connects the information distributing means at a predetermined ~~first connection~~ time, and receives and stores the electronic information contents from the information distributing means, and ~~then~~, reads out and displays the electronic information contents at a ~~second display time~~; and
 - wherein when two or more display times overlap, the information provider adjusts a connection time zone to prevent overlap of two or more connection times.

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2. (currently amended) The ~~An~~ electronic information content automatic distribution service system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said information distributing means comprises:

a plurality of electronic information content providing terminal devices for providing said electronic information contents to a user~~[[,]]~~; and

a terminal connection management device for selecting a terminal device to provide the electronic information contents based on the utilization contract and for connecting to the information processing apparatus.

3. (currently amended) The ~~An~~ electronic information content automatic distribution service system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein advertisement information is distributed from said information distributing means to a user's information processing apparatus ~~together with~~ said electronic information contents.

4. (currently amended) The ~~An~~ electronic information content automatic distribution service system as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said advertisement information contains a regionally limited advertisement ~~concerning said user's~~ related to a habitual area of a user.

5. (currently amended) The ~~An~~ electronic information content automatic distribution service system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said information provider distributes electronic information contents sequentially updated to said user.

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6. (currently amended) An apparatus for automatically receiving electronic information contents distributed from information distributing means based on a utilization contract ~~made in advance~~ previously established between an information provider and a user, the apparatus comprising:

a communication device for calling and connecting the information distributing means and for receiving the electronic information contents distributed from the information distributing means;

a storage device for storing the electronic information contents received from the communication device;

a display device for displaying the electronic information contents read out from the storage device; ~~and~~

a control device for controlling at least input and output of the communication device and display device, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the control device provides control so as to call and connect the information distributing means at a predetermined ~~first connection~~ time, and to receive and store the electronic information contents from the information distributing means, ~~and then~~, read out and display the electronic information contents at a ~~second display~~ time; and

wherein when two or more display times overlap, the information provider adjusts a connection time zone to prevent overlap of two or more connection times.

7. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that there is provided at least further comprising:~~

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operating means ~~operated so as to set for setting~~ a second display time for reading out and displaying electronic information contents on said display device.

8. (currently amended) ~~The An~~ information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said control device sets a first connection time for calling and connecting said information distributing means by counting the first connection time back from said second display time.

9. (currently amended) ~~The An~~ information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that there is provided further comprising:~~

a recording medium for operating said control device, said recording medium having recorded therein a control program comprising:

a first procedure concerning a utilization contract made in advance between an information provider and a user;

a second procedure for setting a first connection time that is a time for downloading electronic information contents from said information distributing means and for setting a second display time that is a time for displaying electronic information contents by said information processing apparatus; and

a third procedure for calling said information distributing means to be connected to the user's information processing apparatus at said first connection time, and receiving and storing electronic information contents from said information distributing means, and then, reading out and displaying electronic information contents by said information processing apparatus at said second display time.

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10. (currently amended) The ~~An~~ information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ advertisement information is displayed on said display device ~~together~~ with electronic information contents.

11. (currently amended) The ~~An~~ information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said advertisement information contains a regionally limited advertisement ~~concerning said user's~~ related to a habitual area of a user.

12. (currently amended) A recording medium used in the case where arbitrary electronic information contents are automatically distributed from the information provider's information distributing means to the user's information processing apparatus, the recording medium having a control program recorded therein, the program comprising:

a first procedure ~~concerning~~ related to a utilization contract ~~made in advance~~ previously established between the information provider and the user;

a second procedure for setting a first connection time as a function of that is a time for downloading electronic information contents from the information distributing means and a ~~second display~~ time that is a function of a time for displaying electronic information contents by the information processing apparatus; ~~and~~

a third procedure for calling the information distributing means at the first connection time to be connected to the user's information processing apparatus, receiving and storing the electronic information contents from the information distributing means, ~~and then,~~ reading out and displaying the electronic information contents at the ~~second display~~ time by the information processing apparatus; and

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wherein when two or more display times overlap, the information provider adjusts a connection time zone to prevent overlap of two or more connection times.

13. (currently amended) The A-recording medium as claimed in claim 12,
~~characterized in that wherein~~ said first procedure comprises the steps of:

registering a user in said information provider;
selecting a field of electronic information contents by said user; and
inputting a utilization charge payment method according to said electronic
information content automatic distribution service.

14. (currently amended) A method for automatically distributing arbitrary
electronic information contents from the information provider's information distributing means
to the user's information processing apparatus, said method ~~is characterized by~~ comprising the
steps of:

~~making~~ establishing a utilization contract in advance between the information
provider and the user;

setting a ~~first connection~~ time that is a function of a time for downloading
electronic information contents from the information distributing means and a ~~second display~~
time that is a function of a time for displaying electronic information contents by the information
processing apparatus; and

calling the information distributing means at the ~~first connection~~ time so as to be
connected to the user's information processing apparatus; ~~and~~

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~~receiving and storing the electronic information contents from the information~~
~~distributing means; and then,~~

~~reading out and displaying the electronic information contents at the second~~
~~display time by the information processing apparatus; and~~

~~wherein when two or more display times overlap, the information provider adjusts~~
~~a connection time zone to prevent overlap of two or more connection times.~~

15. (currently amended) The ~~An~~ electronic information content automatic distribution method as claimed in claim 14, ~~characterized by~~ comprising the steps of:

registering said user in an information provider during said utilization contract;
and

selecting a field of electronic information contents by said user so as to input a utilization charge payment method relevant to said selected electronic information content automatic distribution service.

16. (currently amended) The ~~An~~ electronic information content automatic distribution method as claimed in claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein advertisement information is distributed from said information distributing means to the user's information processing apparatus together with said electronic information contents.

17. (currently amended) The ~~An~~ electronic information content automatic distribution method as claimed in claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said advertisement

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information contains a regionally limited advertisement ~~concerning said user's~~ related to a
habitual area of a user.

18. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An electronic information content automatic
distribution method as claimed in claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said information
provider distributes electronic information contents sequentially updated to said user.